

## [Eustis Named for Burlington Official]

Frontier 84

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Subject: EUSTIS NAMED FOR BURLINGTON OFFICIAL

This month, September, 1936, Eustis Nebraska celebrates its Golden Jubilee — honors too, the man for whom it was named, Percy Sprague Eustis, whose distinguished career with the Burlington railroad also covered fifty honorable years.

[Mr.?] Eustis — who still is known, as he was to personal friends and business associates alike, by the cryptic letters [P.S.E."?] has often been referred to as the outstanding passenger traffic official of American railroads. After 25 years as Passenger Traffic Vanager of the Burlington, he retired in 1927, now resides in Chula Vista, California, forsaking the Midwest for a sunnier clime.

The career of "P.S.E." like that of many other enterprising American youths who have climbed to positions of influence and priminnence in the transportation industry, began in a perfectly normal, American way. He was born at [Miltin,?] Mass., On February 16, 1857, the son of Alexander B. Eustis, an employe of the War Department, and Aurora G. Eustis. Following brief attendance at a private school, be began work in Philadelphia, at the age of fourteen. [??]

It was in the summer if 1876 that "P.S.E. met William Forbes — a significant meeting in a year when the Western empire was being forged with shining steel rails. Mr Forbes was interested in the building of the C. B. & Q. railroad, and to him Eustis expressed his

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intention of following the much-earlier advice of Horace [Greeley?], if employment could be found "Out West," Apparently Mr. Forbes passed the word on to officers of the company, for on October 30, Wm. Irving, then superintendent of Burlington & the Missouri River Railroad, telegraphed from Omaha, offering the young man from the East a position at \$40. per month, a salary which, he was told, would maintain him nicely if he were frugal! "P.S.E." lost no time in accepting, and reported for duty at Omaha on November 4, 1876. The die was cast — his railroad career begun. [? 15 -?]

Assigned first to duty under Percival Lowell, then General Freight and Passenger Agent, it was four and one-half years later that "P.S.E." was promoted to chief ticket clerk in charge of the Passenger Department of the Burlington & Missouri River at Omaha. Within a for months he was made General Passenger Agent at Omaha, August 1, 1881 and seven years later rode into the headquarters of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad with the title of General Passenger Agent at Chicago.

In 1902 Mr. Eustis became Passenger Traffic Manager of the entire Burlington system, a post that he held with singular distinction for a quarter of a century — until June 1, 1927 when he asked to be relieved of its arduous responsibilities. Without doubt, the present enviable position held by the Burlington in serving the traveling public, is largely due to the outstanding services of "P.S.E." in those formative 25 years.

Some Idea of the esteem in which "P.S.E." was held by all his associates may be gathered from the official notice issued at the time of his retirement which carried these words: "It is with great regret announcement is made that Mr. P. S. Eustis, Passenger Traffic Manager, who has served this company for more than fifty years with exceptional distinction, has asked to be relieved on June1, 1927, from the responsibilities of his present position."

Mr. Eustias's service with and as the head of the Passenger Department of the Burlington Route spanned more than a generation of American railroading. He was with the road while it was still in the process of expansionl he saw and assisted in its consolidation into a

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powerful transportation unit, and he retired at a time when his work and policies had been thoroughly and brilliantly vindicated. Fellow traffic men rate him as having exceptional knowledge of all phases of traffic problems and remarkable executive ability. At the same time, over 50 years of passenger activities have endeared him to thousand of people throughout the great Western country with which he was in such long and close contact.

Source: The Eustis News, Eustis, Nebr.

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